

Friday, July 15, 2016



"MAPPING YOUR MIGRATING ANCESTORS"

Our ancestors traveled as much, if not more, than we do today. Explore what types of maps and property records exist for pinpointing your ancestor's whereabouts across the United States; from plat maps to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps to Google maps! Hear suggestions on how to trace your ancestors using land records available through government agencies and provide suggestions on how to track down records using non-governmental sources like libraries, archives and historical societies.

Tina Beird is the Genealogy and Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library in Plainfield, IL. She lectures on genealogical research, archival preservation and Illinois history at the local, state and national level. Tina has been providing professional genealogy assistance to researchers since 2003 and has been tracing her own family's history for more than 20 years.



"CIVIL WAR PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL BUREAU RECORDS"

Was your ancestor a draftee, substitute or deserter? During the Civil War, the U.S. Provost Marshal General was responsible for collecting information on all men eligible to fight regardless of their political loyalties. Come learn what details these unique records contain and how to search them.

Jake Ersland joined the permanent staff at the National Archives in Kansas City as an archivist in 2008 after previously working there as a student, contractor and intern. He received both his Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees in History from Pittsburg State University. Jake oversees holdings maintenance projects, the accessioning of new records, handles reference requests, and writes descriptions of records, as well as performing other miscellaneous duties.



"DUST BOWL DESCENT"

In the "Dust Bowl Descent" project and book, Bill Ganzel tracked down and interviewed around 30 folks who survived the Great Depression who were in photographs taken by the Farm Security Administration. Some of these photos have become iconic images illustrating those hard times. This program brings you the stories of these survivors in their own words and juxtaposes recent photographs from the 1930s. It's a compelling account of the triumph of the human spirit over hard times.

Bill Ganzel is the author of the book, "Dust Bowl Descent." He is owner of Ganzel Group Communications of Lincoln. Before that he worked for Nebraska Public Television for 27 years serving as an executive producer for the News and Public Affairs division, as well as the Interactive Media Group. He is working on a book and video documentary project called "Sixties Survivors." In the new project, he's tracking down 50 to 75 of the same people who were first photographed and profiled in LOOK magazine during the 1960s.

Space is limited.
Preregistration is required for all events.

Saturday, July 16, 2016



"FIND YOUR ANCESTORS USING MILITARY BOUNTY LAND WARRANTS & HOMESTEAD CASE FILES"

Learn how to use the Bureau of Land Management database to find Military Bounty Land Warrants as well as Homestead Case Files—a treasure trove of genealogical information beyond the land patents. Where are they, and how do you find them?

Evie Bresette is a professional genealogist and a member of APG, NGS, NEHGS, life member of MoSGA and a board member of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. Evie has given lectures at national and local conferences and classes at the National Archives-Kansas City, MO, Region where she has volunteered since 1993. She specializes in Heir/Forensics research.



"TRANSCONTINENTAL MIGRATION: HOW AMERICAN FAMILIES BECAME BICOASTAL"

This presentation will examine the life and family of a New England native whose moves to Ohio and Iowa were followed by her children's moves to Kansas and Nebraska, and her grandchildren's migration to Southern California in the course of the 19th Century. We'll examine records to help track and connect families across the continent and evaluate evidence gathered along the way to help complete a narrative of the family's movements.

Dr. David McDonald, CG, is a longtime genealogical lecturer and researcher. He is a trustee and past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. His research interests include migration to and through the United States, specializing in the states of the old Northwest Territory and Great Plains, as well as New England and Great Britain. He has published articles in several genealogical publications, including the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. David lives near Madison, WI.



"MYTHS OF WOMEN'S MADNESS ON THE PLAINS"

This presentation examines the myths of Plains women, as they are promoted by authors of fiction and history, and the realities based on published and unpublished works, including diaries, journals, newspapers, and family stories. The presentation also provides information on early facilities for the mentally ill and their role in society. Nancy shows that the lives of Plains women were as varied as the pieces of a pioneer crazy quilt. She focuses on Nebraska women from 1870-1910.

Nancy B. Johnson, an independent scholar of Great Plains and Women's Studies, holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Living most of her life in Merrick County, NE, she is a fifth-generation Nebraskan and has always been interested in the stories of Nebraska and Nebraskans. She is a Humanities Nebraska speaker, presenting "Myths of Women's Madness on the Plains" and "Wright Morris: Small Town Life Through the Eyes of a Nebraska Writer." She serves as a board member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and the Merrick County Historical Museum.



"HOMESTEADING IN ALASKA 1898-1988: THE FINAL CHAPTER IN AMERICA'S HOMESTEAD EXPERIENCE"

The story of homesteading in America began in 1862 with the passage of the Homestead Act, and it ended in Alaska in 1988, when the final homestead patent was issued to a Vietnam era veteran, Kenneth Deardorff. But the story of how the 1862 law was changed starting in 1898 to "fit" the special needs of Alaska is a rather curious tale. This talk tells the little-known story of how homesteading in Alaska sometimes worked (but often didn't) and what else was done to help settle the Last Frontier prior to the end of its homestead era.

Robert E. King, has been a resident of Alaska since August 1981, which was more than five years before the last homestead claims were filed in the state. Starting in 1986 and continuing today, he is the senior archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management, stationed in Anchorage, AK. King holds undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and History from Washington State University, and graduate degrees in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, where he did his master's and doctoral studies in ethnohistory and American archaeology. His most recent book (2007) featured his interest in historic Alaskan postcards: "Postcards from Alaska: Souvenir Pictures of the Last Frontier, 1890s-1940s."